

Contents

Sound system

Vowels

Consonants

Phonological processes

Germination

Notes

Bibliography

Sound system

Vowels

	<u>Front</u>	<u>Central</u>	<u>Back</u>
<u>High</u>	i	ɨ	u
<u>Mid vowel</u>	ə		
<u>Low vowel</u>	a		

The central vowels /ɪ ə a/ have fronted and backed allophones, depending on the adjacent consonant(s).

Consonants

Xamtanga	
Xamir	
Pronunciation	ˈχamt̪aŋa
Native to	Ethiopia
Region	North Amhara Region
Native speakers	210,000 (2007 census) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Afro-Asiatic <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cushitic<ul style="list-style-type: none">Agaw<ul style="list-style-type: none">Northern<ul style="list-style-type: none">Xamtanga</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	xan
Glottolog	xamt1239 (http://glottolog.org/resource/lan guoid/id/xamt1239) ^[2]

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Coronal</u>	<u>Postalveolar or palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>		<u>Uvular</u>		<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Plosives and affricates</u>	<u>Voiceless</u>		t	tʃ	k	kʷ	q	qʷ	
	<u>Voiced</u>	b	d	dʒ	g	gʷ			
	<u>Ejective</u>		tʼ	tʃʼ	kʼ	kʷʼ			
<u>Fricatives</u>	<u>Voiceless</u>	f	s	ʃ			χ	χʷ	h*
	<u>Voiced</u>		z						
	<u>Ejective</u>		sʼ						
<u>Nasals</u>		m	n		ŋ	ŋʷ			
<u>Lateral</u>			l						
<u>Tap</u>			r						
<u>Semivowels</u>				j		w			

- /h/ is found only word-initial in loanwords, and may be glottal [h] or pharyngeal [ħ].
- /t/ is alveolar before the vowel /i/, dental otherwise.
- /q/ can be ejective [qʼ], and in some cases the ejectives appear to be in free variation with the voiceless plosives.

Phonological processes

Gemination

In positions other than word-initial, Xamtanga contrasts geminate and non-geminate consonants. With most consonants, the difference between a geminate and a non-geminate is simply one of length, but the cases of /b t q/ are more complex. When not word-initial, non-geminate /b/ is realized as a bilabial [β] or labiodental fricative [v], and /t/ and /q/ are realized as affricates: [tθ qχ]. Their geminate equivalents may be realized as prolonged [bː tː qː], or can simply be short [b t q].

In word-initial position, geminate consonants do not occur, and /b t q/ are realized as plosives.

Notes

1. Ethiopia 2007 Census (http://www.csa.gov.et/newcsaweb/images/documents/surveys/Population%20and%20Housing%20census/ETH-pop-2007/survey0/data/Doc/Reports/National_Statistical.pdf)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Xamtanga" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/xamt1239>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.

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